REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-10 are pending in the application and are rejected. Claim 1 has been amended to delete "a polyphenylene sulfide resin".

Since the above amendments will place the application in condition for allowance or reduce issues for appeal, entry is respectfully requested.

I. Response to Rejection of Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Fukuzawa et al. (US 5,755,261).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 was amended to recite an apparatus for feeding a high-purity ammonia gas, comprising an ammonia gas flow path and a sealing part and/or a gas contacting part, which is in the ammonia gas flow path and comprise a halogen-free resin selected from the group consisting of a polyolefin resin, a phenol resin, a xylene resin, a polyether ether ketone resin, and a polyimide resin.

It is respectfully submitted that Fukuzawa fails to teach each and every element of claim 1.

Fukuzawa does not disclose a valve assembly having a sealing part comprising a halogen-free resin selected from the group consisting of a polyolefin resin, a phenol resin, a xylene resin, a polyether ether ketone resin, and a polyimide resin.

In addition, Fukuzawa discloses a valve assembly that is used in a water faucet or the like and has an excellent water stopping property, and does not disclose, teach, or suggest an apparatus for handing a gas.

Specifically, Fukuzawa discloses that an object is to provide a vale assembly that can stop water reliably even after long use and permits a smooth operation of the handle for

adjusting the water supply. *See* col. 2, lines 34-42. Another object of Fukuzawa is to prevent water leakage. *See* col. 2, lines 54--57. Thus, the valve assembly of Fukuzawa is different from the apparatus of the present invention having an excellent corrosion resistance to ammonia gas.

Hence, Fukuzawa fails to anticipate claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over Fukuzawa.

In addition, claims 2, 4-5, 7, and 9-10 depend from claim 1, and thus it is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Response to Rejection of Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fukuzawa et al. in view of Kimura et al. (US 2003/0162870).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As discussed above, Fukuzawa does not disclose, teach or suggest a valve assembly having a sealing part comprising a halogen-free resin selected from the group consisting of a polyolefin resin, a phenol resin, a xylene resin, a polyether ether ketone resin, and a polyimide resin. In addition, the assembly of Fukuzawa is different from that of the present invention.

Thus, even if Fukuzawa were somehow combined with Kimura, which the Examiner asserts teaches resins including PPS to be halogen-free, the combination would not result in the present invention according to claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over Fukuzawa and Kimura.

In addition, claims 2, 4-5, 7, and 9-10 depend from claim 1, and thus it is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Response to Rejection of Claims 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fukuzawa et al. (US 5,755,261) in view of Borland (US 5,474,105).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As discussed above, Fukuzawa does not disclose, teach or suggest a valve assembly having a sealing part comprising a halogen-free resin selected from the group consisting of a polyolefin resin, a phenol resin, a xylene resin, a polyether ether ketone resin, and a polyimide resin. In addition, the assembly of Fukuzawa is different from that of the present invention.

Thus, even if Fukuzawa were somehow combined with Borland, which the Examiner asserts teaches a cylinder valve, the combination would not result in the present invention.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5-9 is patentable over Fukuzawa and Kimura.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Response to Rejection of Claims 1-2 and 4-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-2 and 4-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Borland et al. US 5,474,104 in view of Kimura et al. (US 2003/0162870).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Kimura relates to a flame-retardant composition including PPS and discloses that the flame retardant resin composition is useful as housing materials in electric and electronic fields and as substitutes for metallic parts of automobiles. *See* [0001], [0061]. There is no teaching or suggestion in Kimura that the resin can be used in a valve assembly, such as one disclosed

by Borland. Accordingly, it is submitted that there is no motivation to combine Borland and Kimura.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over Borland and Kimura.

In addition, claims 2 and 4-10 depend from claim 1, and thus it is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Response to Rejection of Claims 1-2, 4-7 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-2, 4-7 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Beaver et al. (US 5,149,105) in view of Kimura et al. (US 2003/0162870).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As discussed above, Kimura discloses that the flame-retardant resin composition including PPS is useful as housing materials in electric and electronic fields and as substitutes for metallic parts of automobiles. Since Kimura does not teach or suggest that the resin can be used in a sealing part of a vessel, such as one disclosed by Beaver, it is submitted that there is no motivation to combine Beaver with Kimura.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over Beaver and Kimura.

In addition, claims 2, 4-7 and 9-10 depend from claim 1, and thus it is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

VI. Response to Rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Beaver et al. (US 5,149,105) in view of Kimura et al. and Borland et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As discussed above, Kimura does not teach or suggest that the resin can be used in a line filter, such as one disclosed by Borland, or a sealing part, such as one disclosed by Beaver. Thus, it is submitted that there is no motivation to combine Beaver with Kimura and/or Borland.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

VII. Response to Rejection of Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fukuzawa et al. in view of Floh et al. (US 2004/0045605).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As discussed above, Fukuzawa discloses a valve assembly, which is used in a water faucet or the like and has an excellent water stopping property, and neither discloses nor suggests an apparatus for handing gas. Therefore, it is submitted that there is no motivation to use ammonia gas as disclosed by Floh in the apparatus of Fukuzawa.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over Fukuzawa and Floh.

In addition, claims 2, 4-5, 7 and 9-10 depend from claim 1, and thus it is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

VIII. Response to Rejection of Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fukuzawa et al. in view of Kimura et al. and Floh et al. (US 2004/0045605).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As discussed above, it is submitted that there is no motivation to use the ammonia gas of Floh in the apparatus of Fukuzawa.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over Fukuzawa, Kimura and Floh.

In addition, claims 2, 4-5, 7 and 9-10 depend from claim 1, and thus it is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IX. Response to Rejection of Claims 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fukuzawa et al. in view of Borland and Floh et al. (US 2004/0045605).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As discussed above, since the apparatus of Fukuzawa is different from that of the present invention, it is submitted that even if Fukuzawa and Borland were somehow combined, the combination would not result in the present invention.

In addition, Fukuzawa discloses a valve assembly, which is used in a water faucet or the like and has an excellent water stopping property, and fails to teach or suggest an apparatus for handing gas. Therefore, it is submitted that there is no motivation to use the ammonia gas of Floh in the apparatus of Fukuzawa.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5-9 are patentable over Fukuzawa, Borland and Floh.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

X. Response to Rejection of Claims 1-2 and 4-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-2 and 4-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Borland et al. (US 5,474,104) in view of Kimura et al. (US 2003/0162870) in view of Floh et al. (US 2004/0045605).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Borland discloses a gasket comprised of a polyamide. However, Borland fails to disclose, teach or suggest "a sealing part and/or a gas contacting part comprising a halogen-free resin selected from the group consisting of a polyolefin resin, a phenol resin, a xylene resin and a polyether ether ketone resin."

In addition, Kimura discloses that the flame-retardant resin composition including PPS is useful as housing material sin electric and electronic fields and as substitutes for metallic parts of automobiles. Since Kimura does not teach or suggest that the resin can be used in a gasket, such as one disclosed by Borland, it is submitted that there is no motivation to combine Borland with Kimura.

Further, even if Floh, which the Examiner relies upon as disclosing the use of ammonia gas, were somehow combined with Boland and/or Kimura, it is submitted that the combination would not result in the claimed invention because there is no disclosure of "a sealing part and/or a gas contacting part comprising a halogen-free resin selected from the group consisting of a polyolefin resin, a phenol resin, a xylene resin and a polyether ether ketone resin."

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over Borland, Kimura and Floh.

In addition, claims 2 and 4-10 depend from claim 1, and thus it is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

XI. Response to Rejection of Claims 1-2, 4-7, and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-2, 4-7, and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Beaver et al. in view of Kimura et al. (US 2003/0162870) in view of Floh et al. (US 2004/0045605).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Beaver discloses a sealing part made from a polyamide resin, a polyester resin or the like, but does not disclose materials made from a halogen-free resin having excellent corrosion resistance to ammonia gas.

Kimura discloses that the flame-retardant resin composition including PPS is useful as housing material sin electric and electronic fields and as substitutes for metallic parts of automobiles. However, Kimura does not teach or suggest that resin can be used in a sealing parts of a vessel, such as one disclosed by Beaver. Thus, it is submitted that there is no motivation for combining Beaver with Kimura.

Further, even if Floh were somehow combined with Beaver and/or Kimura, it s submitted that the combination would not result in the claimed invention.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over Beaver, Kimura and Floh.

In addition, claims 2, 4-7 and 9-10 depend from claim 1, and thus it is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

XII. Response to Rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Beaver et al. (US 5,149,105) in view of Kimura et al., Borland et al., and Floh et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As discussed above, it is submitted that there is no motivation to combine Beaver with Kimura. Therefore, even if Borland, which the Examiner asserts discloses a line filter, is combined with Beaver, it is submitted that the combination would not result in the present invention.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 8 is patentable

over Beaver, Kimura, Floh, and Borland.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

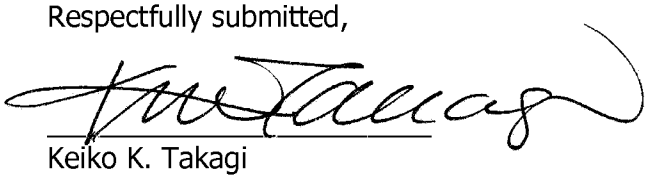
XIII. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 2 and 4-10 is respectfully requested.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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